

Nyack Parks Meeting: June 2023

Meeting held July 5, 2023

Members in attendance:

Jim Willcox
Carolyn Cairns
Bert Hughes
Andrea DeVitto

Meeting started at 7pm via Zoom call.

Points of discussion: The meetings main point of discussion was a meeting that Jim attended, along with Village officials, local businesses, and other organizations, with New York State Secretary of State Robert Rodriguez.

The purpose of the visit was to familiarize the secretary with the importance of Nyack's Memorial Park and marina to the community. The group walked the secretary through the park and marina, highlighting the fact that for a good portion of Nyack's residents, the park was their primary entertainment and activity center. Nyack's Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan was discussed as a blueprint for various efforts to maintain and develop its waterfront.

At a luncheon following the walkthrough, attendees spoke eloquently about the importance of our community, and that grants have enabled Nyack to have an active, vibrant waterfront, which serves as an economic engine for the village. The hope is that New York State will recognize the importance of the Nyack waterfront to its community when considering grant applications.

Here are some details of the meeting:

Local Stakeholders Attending the Event

- Mayor Don Hammond
- Deputy Mayor Joe Rand
- Trustee Pascale Jean-Gilles
- Trustee Lightfoot-Cooper
- Andy Stewart, Village Administrator
- Manny Carmona, Building Inspector
- Ann Marie Tlsty, Assistant to Village Administrator
- Local Business/Non-Profits:
 - Jim Willcox, LWRP Committee, Chair, Parks Commission
 - Brianne Higgins and David Budway, Maureen's Jazz Cellar
 - Angelo Rubino, Nyack Seaport Restaurant
 - Marcella Mazzeo, Salonniere Coffee
 - Terry Clarke, Black Parakeetz
 - Kevin O'Donnell, Nyack Boat Charter
 - Chris Sorensen, VP John Green (House) Preservation Coalition

Accomplishments Aligned with LWRP

- Memorial Park Master Plan
- Marina Walkway and Lighting Project (under construction)

- Pedestrian Bridge linking Marina and Memorial Park
 - Viewing Pier
 - Kayak Racks
 - Streetscape Improvements in Downtown Area
 - Restaurant “Parklets”
 - Removed navigational hazards in harbor
 - Nyack Brook culvert improvements
 - Historic monuments rehabilitation in park
 - Post-Superstorm Sandy re-build of the Marina
- Planned Improvements Aligned with LWRP
- Riverfront Walkway to Link Pedestrian Bridge to Viewing Pier
 - Marina Restaurant Site Bulkhead Repair for Shovel-Readiness
 - Playground Equipment, Gate, ADA Path and Great Lawn Rehabilitation
 - Marina Parking Lot Paving/Striping Project
 - Gedney St Development/Waterfront Park
 - John Green House Restoration
 - Sustainable shoreline/climate change resiliency
 - Paving and parking improvement in Marina lot

Benefits of Waterfront Improvements Aligned with LWRP

- Public access for diverse community, including ADA compliance
- Public recreation
- Boater/paddler access to Hudson River
- Economic Development (Restaurant Site) and Business Growth in Downtown
- Tourism
- Special Events in Park – Music, Festivals, Fireworks, Penguin Plunge, etc.
- Environmental benefits (habitat, water quality, education, climate change)